

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6787

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 900

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BF

SUBJ: PRE-IG REVIEW OF FY 1976-77 BAHAMAS CASP

REF: STATE 124276

1. EMBASSY PLEASED THAT BAHAMAS CASP WELL-RECEIVED. OUR COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDED SUBSTANTIVE MODIFICATIONS FOLLOW:

2. SUMMARY, PAGE ONE: DEPARTMENT IS IN BETTER POSITION THAN WE TO STATE GENERAL (AND GLOBAL) "U.S. INTERESTS IN THE ARCHIPELAGO QUESTION AS IT RELATES TO LOS NEGOTIATIONS" BUT IF THE INTEREST IS TO BE STATED EXCLUSIVELY IN ITS BAHAMIAN CONTEXT, WE WOULD PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING ONE SENTENCE ADDITION TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF SUMMARY, BEGINNING AFTER "...COULD ALSO BE AWKWARD": "U.S. HAS AN INTEREST IN ASSURING THAT GCOB PURSUES ITS LOS ARCHIPELAGO OBJECTIVES IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH OVERALL U.S. LOS OBJECTIVES, PRIMARILY THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN ACCEPTABLE REGIME FOR TRANSIT THROUGH STRAITS."

3. FOOTNOTE TO TOP OF PAGE 3: STANDING ALONE AS STATEMENT OF FACT, SENTENCE TO BE ADDED TO TOP OF PAGE 3 GIVES US NO PROBLEMS. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT APRIL GCOB AGREEMENT WITH U.S. ARCHIPELAGO POSITION IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS
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DOES NOT, IN OUR VIEW, INCORPORATE THE U.S. POSITION THAT AN

ACCEPTABLE ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT CAN BE OBTAINED ONLY REPEAT ONLY FROM THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. IN SHORT, IF THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, ARCHIPELAGOS COULD BECOME "AN ISSUE OF BILATERAL BAHAMIAN INTEREST TO PURSUE WITH THE U.S..." FOR THIS REASON, WE WOULD PREFER THAT SUGGESTED NEW LAST SENTENCE READ "ALTHOUGH GOCB INFORMED THE U.S. IN APRIL 1975 THAT IT IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. ARCHIPELAGO POSITION IN THE LOY NEGOTIATIONS, SHOULD A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT NOT BE ACHIEVED THERE IS A STRONG PROBABILITY THAT THE GCOB WOULD EXPECT TO SECURE A COMPARABLE AGREEMENT BILATERALLY; THIS DESPITE THE EXPLICIT U.S. POSITION THAT THE TERMS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO AGREEMENT WERE DEPENDENT UPON MULTILATERAL ACCEPTANCE."

4. PAGE 17, PARAGRAPH 2: WE HAVE SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING PAGE 17.

(A) THE GCOB POSITION IS THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE A PART OF THE U.S. QUID FOR FACILITIES. THE EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS IS THAT IF THE GCOB REMAINS UNSHAKEABLE IN THAT POSITION, THE U.S. MAY WANT TO RECONSIDER (INDEED, MAY HAVE TO RECONSIDER). WE WERE NOT ATTEMPTING TO PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THAT RECONSIDERATION. IT COULD WELL LEAD TO A RE-CONFIRMATION OF OUR PREVIOUS POSITION. NEITHER WERE WE ATTEMPTING TO SAY THAT GCOB POSITION TYING ASSISTANCE TO FACILITIES IS LEGITIMATE. (IN FACT EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY CONFIRMED TO GCOB THAT THE CONTRARY IS OUR POSITION.) FURTHERMORE, WHAT WE DESCRIBED IS THE GCOB POSITION AND WILL BE A PART OF THE BAHAMIAN ENVIRONMENT DURING THE CASP TIME-FRAME. WE THINK THAT IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

(B) REVIEWING THE TROUBLESOME SENTENCES AS THEY TOUCH ON PC UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT LEGITIMACY OF THE LINK BETWEEN THEIR PROGRAM AND BASE NEGOTIATIONS, WE CAN SEE WHY IT CAUSES PROBLEMS AS WE HAVE MADE THE LINKAGE, NOT THE GCOB. STILL, WE WERE ASKED SPECIFICALLY TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A PC PRESENCE HERE (IT WAS PROPOSED IN THE CASP RESOURCE DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE PART OF THE GUIDANCE RECEIVED). WHAT WE WERE SAYING WAS "NO" UNLESS THE GCOB INSISTS AND THEN ATTEMPTING TO FORECAST THE SITUATION IN WHICH THE GCOB MIGHT INSIST, WHICH IN OUR VIEW MOST LIKELY

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WOULD BE IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR POSITION THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PART OF U.S. QUID FOR FACILITIES.

(C) TAKING INTO ACCOUNT (A) AND (B) ABOVE, AND REASON FOR REQUESTED DELETION, WE PROPOSE THAT TROUBLESOME SENTENCES BE DELETED, WITH FOLLOWING IN THEIR PLACE: "...IN PURELY ECONOMIC TERMS, NEITHER HAS U.S. ANY BASIS FOR A PEACE CORPS

PRESENCE. THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE PROBABILITY THAT GCOB WILL CONTINUE TO LINK ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WITH FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS, INSISTING THAT THEY BE PART OF U.S. QUID, EITHER SUBSTITUTIVE FOR OR ADDITIONAL TO FACILITIES RENTAL PAYMENTS. SHOULD GCOB POSITION REMAIN INFLEXIBLE, THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS INVOLVED, OR TRY TO DEVISE MODALITIES TO OVERCOZ THE CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO IMPORTANT U.S. INTERESTS WHICH, WHILE STOPPING SHORT OF ECONOMIC AID PER SE MAY CONCEIVABLY SATISFY GCOB REQUIREMENTS, E.G., FORMS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HLEP GOCB SPEND RENTAL PAYMENTS AGAINST GCOB DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES."

5. PAGE 19: WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH DROPPING "HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE."

6. BREAKDOWN OF MILITARY PERSONNEL RESOURCES: OUR COPY OF LAST YEAR'S CASP INCLUDES DOLLAR FIGURES FOR BASE FINANCIAL RESOURCES (ANNEX A, TABLE 1, PAGE 19) BUT NO BREAKDOWN OF PERSONNEL RESOURCES (ANNEX A, TABLE 2, PAGE 10). THIS YEAR'S CASP INCLUDES, OR DOES NOT INCLUDE, THE SAME ITEMS AS LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, AS REQUESTED, THE FIGURES FOR A "SEPARATE BREAKDOWN OF MILITARY PERSONNEL PER BASES" ARE:

USAF (AFETR) - 1 U.S. MILITARY; 57 U.S. CONTRACTOR; 16 TCN;
52 LOCAL HIRE.

USN (AUTC) - 34 U.S. MILITARY; 6 DOD CIVILIANS; 502 U.S.
CONTRACTORS; 20 TCN; 109 LOCAL HIRE.

USN (NAVFAC) - 138 U.S. MILITARY; 3 DOD CIVILIAN (TEACHERS);
28 U.S. CONTRACTOR; 1 TCN; 51 LOCAL HIRE.

USCG - 14 U.S. MILITARY.
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